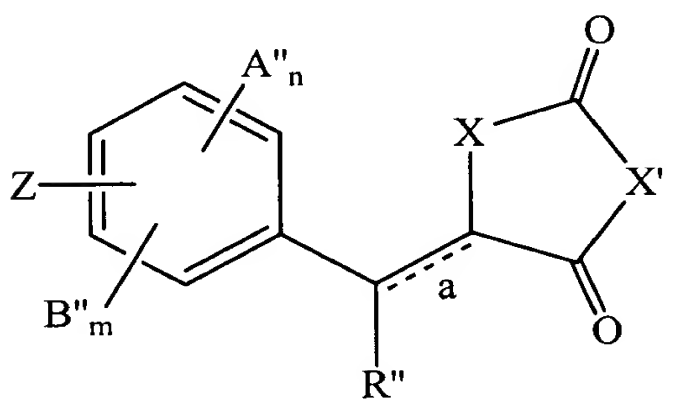
Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1-60. (Cancelled).

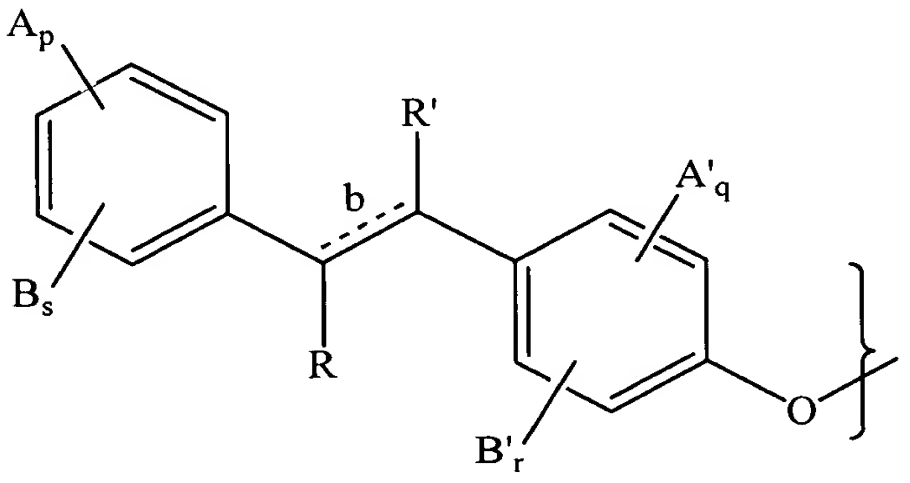
~~61.~~ 1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is



;

n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that n + m < 4 and q + r < 4; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that p + s < 5; a and b represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH; -OR'''; -$CONR_2$''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or optionally substituted C_1-C_{20} alkoxy;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A" each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl;C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxy; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B" each independently represent; C_2-C_{20} alkenoyl; aroyl; or aralkanoyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-.

~~62.~~ 2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~61~~ 1, wherein R' represents -CO_2R''', CO_2Z' or -$CONR_2$''''.

63-64. (Cancelled).

~~66.~~ 3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~62~~2, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~71.~~ 4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~62~~2, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen atom.

~~115.~~ 5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~62~~2 wherein R' represents $-CO_2R'''$.

~~67.~~ 6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~115~~5, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~125.~~ 7. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~67~~6 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~116.~~ 9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~115~~5 wherein R''' represents methyl.

~~132.~~ 8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~125~~7 wherein A', A", B' and B" all represent hydrogen atoms.

~~73.~~ 10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~116~~9 wherein said A group represents methoxy.

~~117.~~ 11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~62~~2 wherein R' represents $-CO_2Z'$.

~~68.~~ 12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~117~~11, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~126.~~ 13. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~68~~12 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~118.~~ 14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~117~~11 wherein Z' is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion.

~~74.~~ 15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~118~~14 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

~~119.~~ 16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~62~~2 wherein R' represents $-CONR_2''''$.

~~120.~~ 17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~119~~16 wherein at least one R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom, methyl or methoxy.

~~121.~~ 18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~119~~16, wherein both R'''' are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.

~~122.~~ 19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~119~~16, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~127.~~ 20. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~119~~16 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~128.~~ 21. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~62~~2 wherein at least two A groups represent methoxy.

~~170.~~ 22. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~62~~2 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of 3-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid,

3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylamide,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-N,N-dimethyl-acrylamide,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-N-methoxy,-N-methyl-acrylamide,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid methyl ester,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid methyl ester,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolid in-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid, and
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid methyl ester.

~~65.~~ 23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~61~~1, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~69.~~ 24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~61~~1, wherein the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~124.~~ 25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~69~~24 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond.

~~70.~~ 26. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~61~~1, wherein at least one A group represents methoxy.

~~72.~~ 27. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~70~~26, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen atom.

~~75.~~ 28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~70~~26 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

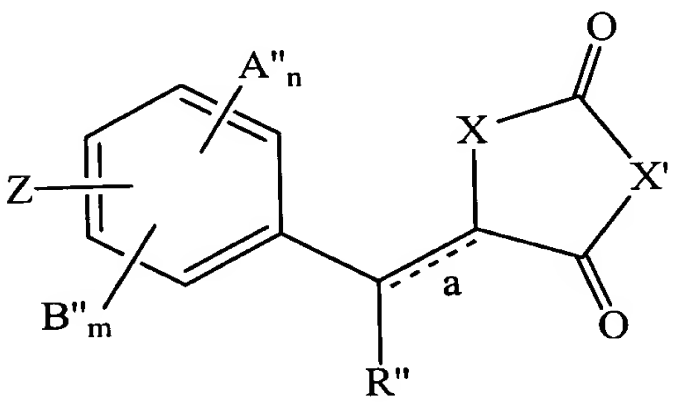
~~123.~~ 29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~61~~1 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond.

~~129.~~ 30. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~61~~1 wherein A' and B' represent hydrogen atoms.

~~130.~~ 31. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~61~~1 wherein A" and B" represent hydrogen atoms.

~~131.~~ 32. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~61~~1 wherein A', A", B' and B" all represent hydrogen atoms.

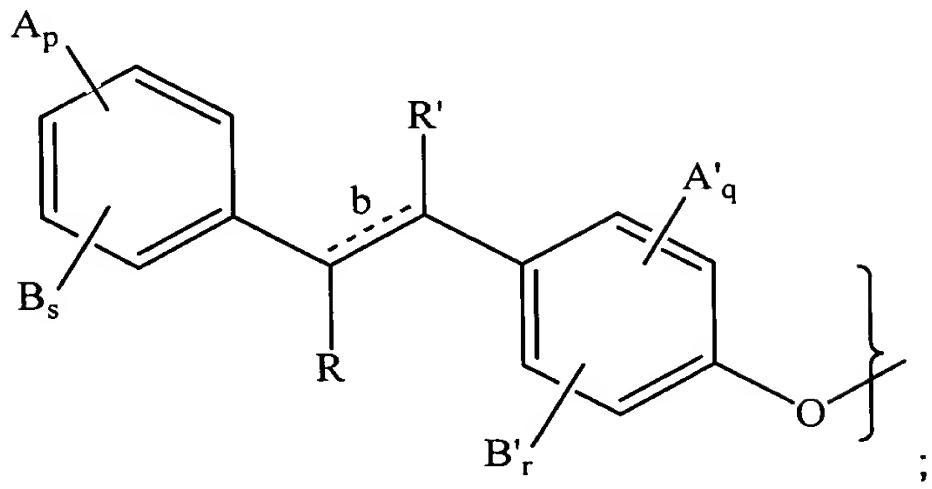
~~76.~~ 33. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is



;

n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that n + m < 4 and q + r < 4; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that p + s < 5; a and b represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH; -OR'''; -$CONR_2$''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or optionally substituted C_1-C_{20} alkoxy;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, and A' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl;C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxy; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

A" independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl;C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; or halo;

B, B' and B" each independently represent; C_2-C_{20} alkenoyl; aroyl; or aralkanoyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR'", -O-, or -S-.

~~77.~~ 34. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~76~~33, wherein R' represents $-CO_2R'''$, $-CO_2Z'$ or $-CONR_2''''$.

~~81.~~ 35. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~77~~34, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

~~85.~~ 36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~77~~34, wherein at least one A group represents methoxy.

~~87.~~ 37. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~85~~36, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen atom.

~~90.~~ 38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~85~~36 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

~~86.~~ 39. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~77~~34, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen atom.

~~133.~~ 40. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~77~~34 wherein R' represents $-CO_2R'''$.

~~78.~~ 41. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~133~~40 wherein R''' represents methyl.

~~82.~~ 42. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~133~~40, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

~~134.~~ 43. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~133~~40 wherein R''' represents methyl.

~~88.~~ 44. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~134~~43 wherein said A group represents methoxy.

~~142.~~ 45. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~133~~40 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~149.~~ 46. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~133~~40 wherein A', A", B' and B" all represent hydrogen atoms.

~~135.~~ 47. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~77~~34 wherein R' represents $-CO_2Z'$.

~~83.~~ 48. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~135~~47, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

~~143.~~ 49. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~135~~47 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~136.~~ 50. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~135~~47 wherein Z' is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion.

~~89.~~ 51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~136~~50 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

~~137.~~ 52. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~136~~50 wherein R' represents -$CONR_2$''''.

~~79.~~ 53. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~137~~52 wherein both R'''' are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.

~~138.~~ 54. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~137~~52 wherein at least one R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom, methyl or methoxy.

~~139.~~ 55. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~137~~52, wherein both R'''' are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.

~~144.~~ 56. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~137~~52 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~145.~~ 57. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~77~~34 wherein at least two A groups represent methoxy.

~~80.~~ 58. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~76~~33, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

~~84.~~ 59. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~76~~33, wherein the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~141.~~ 60. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~84~~59 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond.

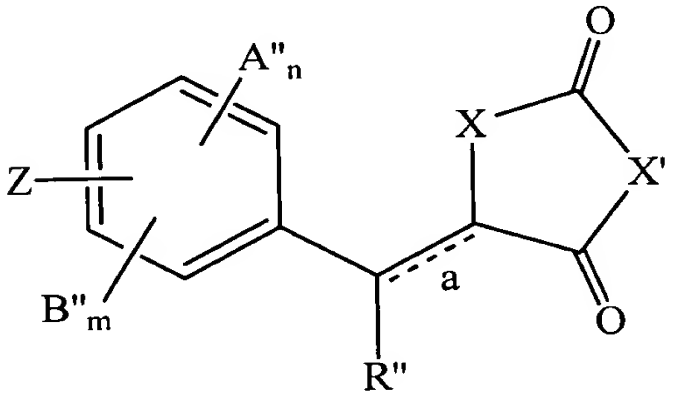
~~140.~~ 61. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~76~~33 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond.

~~146.~~ 62. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~76~~33 wherein A' and B' represent hydrogen atoms.

~~147.~~ 63. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~76~~33 wherein A" and B" represent hydrogen atoms.

~~148.~~ 64. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~76~~33 wherein A', A", B' and B" all represent hydrogen atoms.

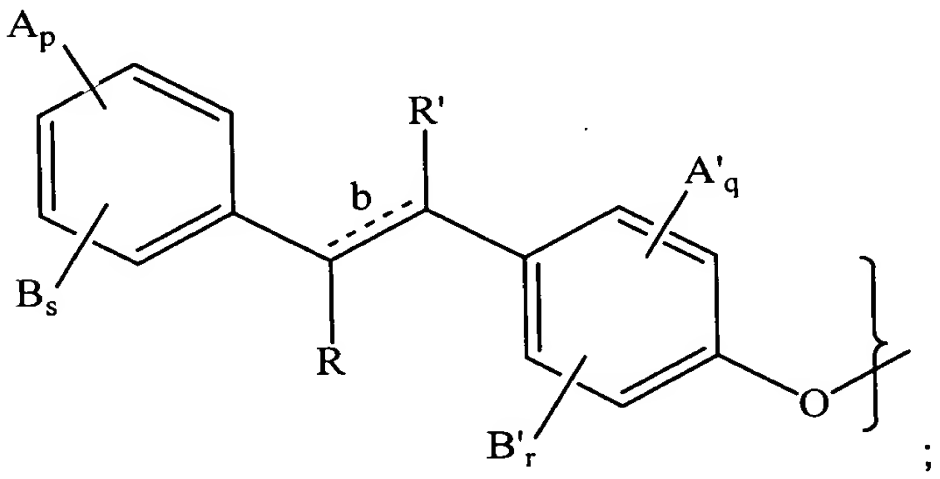
~~91.~~ 65. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

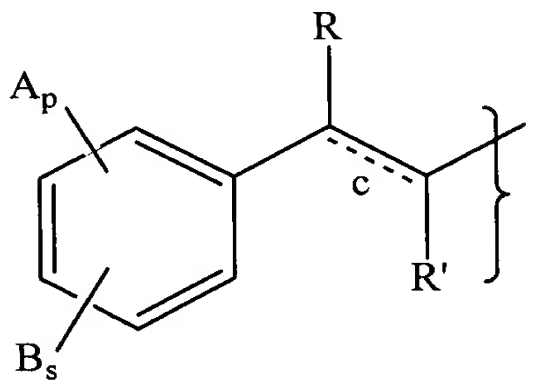
in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is



;

or



;

n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that n + m < 4 and q + r < 4; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that p + s < 5; a, b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH; -OR'''; -$CONR_2$''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OR'''; -$CONR_2$''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or optionally substituted C_1-C_{20} alkoxy;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A" each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl;C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxy; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B" each independently represent; C_2-C_{20} alkenoyl; aroyl; or aralkanoyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR"', -O-, or -S-.

~~92.~~ 66. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~91~~65, wherein R' represents $-CO_2R'''$, CO_2Z' or $-CONR_2''''$.

~~96.~~ 67. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

~~99.~~ 68. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66, wherein the bond labeled "a" represents a single bond.

~~159.~~ 69. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~99~~68 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond.

~~100.~~ 70. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66, wherein at least one A group represents methoxy.

~~102.~~ 71. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~100~~70, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen atom.

~~105.~~ 72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~100~~70 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

~~101.~~ 73. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen atom.

~~150.~~ 74. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66 wherein R' represents $-CO_2R'''$.

~~93.~~ 75. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~150~~74 wherein R''' represents methyl.

~~97.~~ 76. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~150~~74, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

~~151.~~ 77. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~150~~74 wherein R''' represents methyl.

~~103.~~ 78. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~151~~77 wherein said A group represents methoxy.

~~160.~~ 79. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~150~~74 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~152.~~ 80. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66 wherein R' represents $-CO_2Z'$.

~~98.~~ 81. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~152~~80, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

~~153.~~ 82. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~152~~80 wherein Z' is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion.

~~104.~~ 83. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~153~~82 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

~~161.~~ 84. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~152~~80 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~154.~~ 85. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66 wherein R' represents -$CONR_2$''''.

~~94.~~ 86. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~154~~85 wherein both R'''' are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.

~~155.~~ 87. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~154~~85 wherein at least one R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom, methyl or methoxy.

~~156.~~ 88. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~155~~87 wherein both R'''' are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.

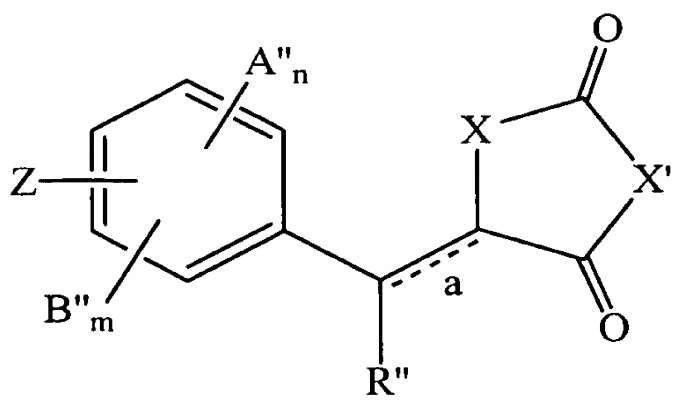
~~157.~~ 89. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~154~~85, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

~~162.~~ 90. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~154~~85 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~95.~~ 91. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~91~~65, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

~~158.~~ 92. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~91~~65 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond.

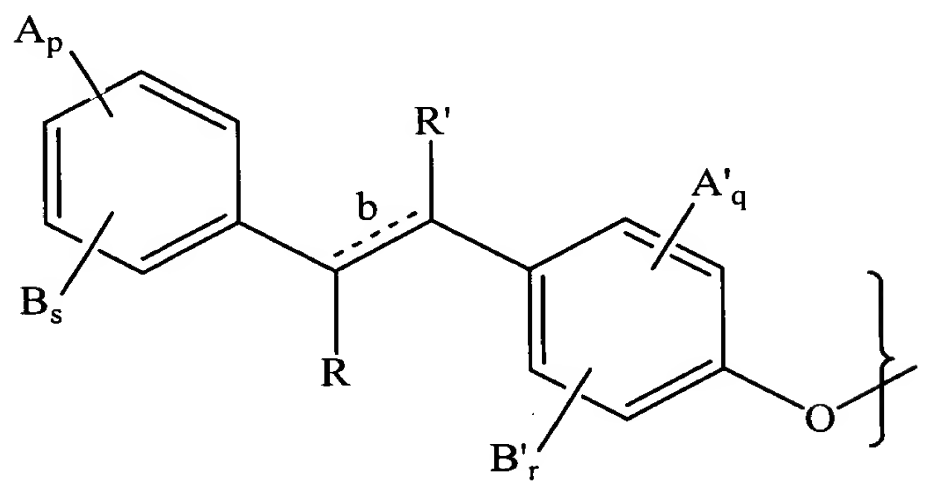
~~106.~~ 93. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is



;

n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that n + m < 4 and q + r < 4; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that p + s < 5; a and b represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A" each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl;C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxy; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B" each independently represent; C_2-C_{20} alkenoyl; aroyl; or aralkanoyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-.

~~107.~~ 94. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~106~~93, wherein R' represents $-CO_2R'''$ or CO_2Z'.

~~109.~~ 95. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~107~~94, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

~~163.~~ 96. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~107~~94 wherein R' represents $-CO_2R'''$.

~~164.~~ 97. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~163~~96 wherein R''' represents methyl.

~~167.~~ 98. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~163~~96, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

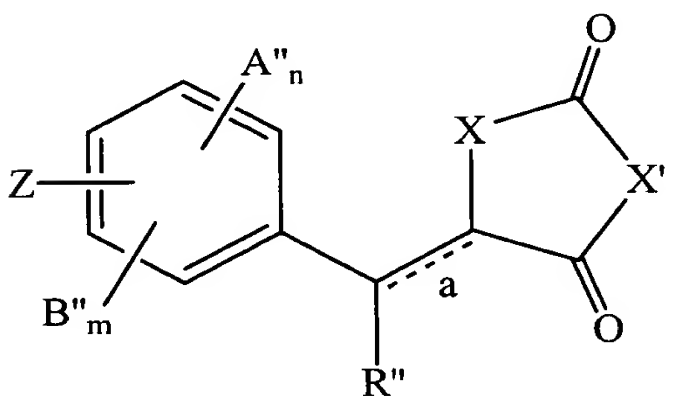
~~165.~~ 99. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~107~~94 wherein R' represents $-CO_2Z'$.

~~166.~~ 100. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~165~~99 wherein Z' is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion.

~~168.~~ 101. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~165~~99, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

~~108.~~ 102. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~106~~93, wherein X is –S- and X' is >NH.

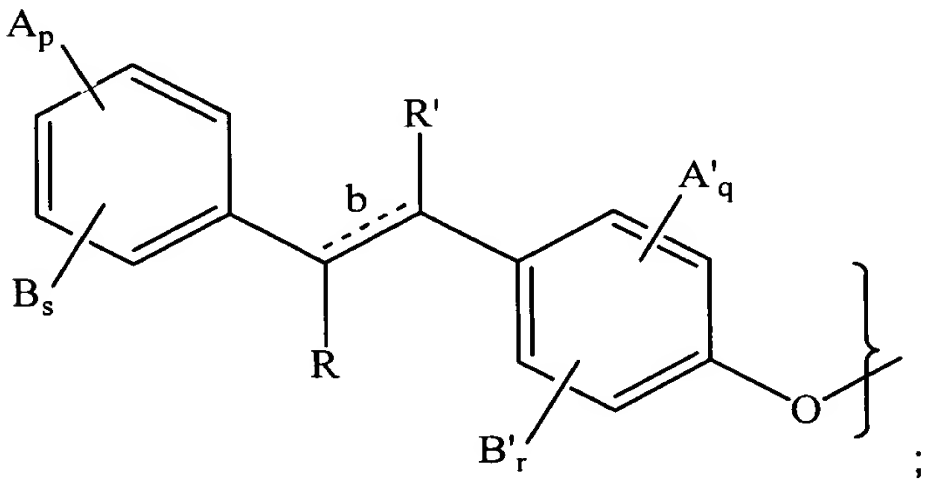
~~110.~~ 103. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is



;

n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that n + m < 4 and q + r < 4; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that p + s < 5; a and b represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when

present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;
R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, and A' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl;C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxy; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

A" independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl;C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; or halo;

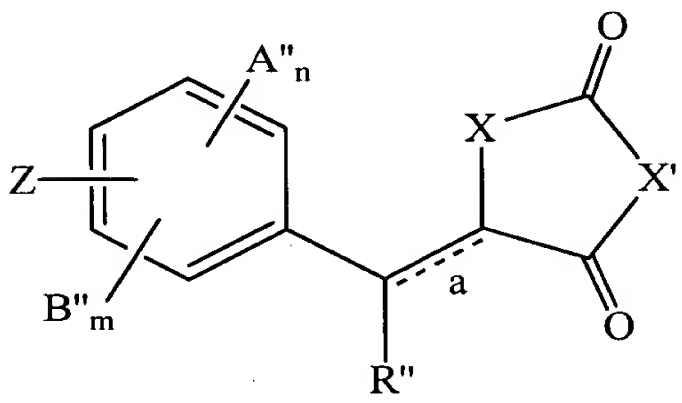
B, B' and B" each independently represent; C_2-C_{20} alkenoyl; aroyl; or aralkanoyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-.

~~111.~~ 104. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a

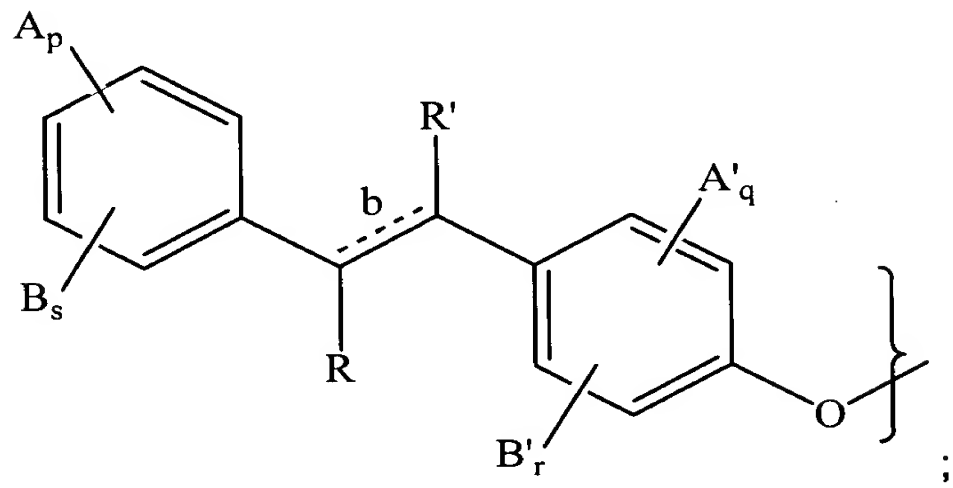
therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

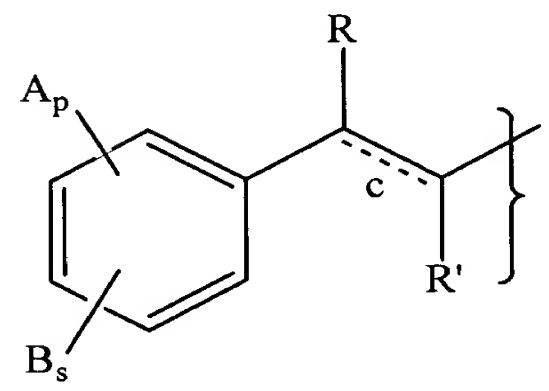
in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is



;

or



;

n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that n + m < 4 and q + r < 4; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that p + s < 5; a, b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH; -OR''';

halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OR'''; -$CONR_2$''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2; -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A" each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl;C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxy; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B" each independently represent; C_2-C_{20} alkenoyl; aroyl; or aralkanoyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-.

~~112.~~ 105. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of 3-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

~~113.~~ 106. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of 3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylamide in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

~~114.~~ 107. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of 5-(4-(4-(1-carbomethoxy-2-(3,5-dimethoxy phenyl)-ethenyl)-phenoxy)-benzyl)-2,4-thiazolidinedione in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

~~169.~~ 108. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of 3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-N,N-dimethyl-acrylamide, a physiologically acceptable carrier.